

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

### CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

#### Heavy Use Area Protection

(Acre)

Code 561

#### DEFINITION

Protecting heavily used areas by establishing vegetative cover, by surfacing with suitable materials, or by installing needed structures.

#### PURPOSES

To stabilize urban, recreation, or facility areas frequently and intensely used by people, animals or vehicles.

#### CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On urban and recreation areas or other frequently and intensely used areas that require special treatment to protect them from erosion or other deterioration.

#### CRITERIA

Drainage and erosion control. Provision shall be made for surface and subsurface drainage, as needed, and for disposal of runoff without causing erosion.

Base course. All areas to be paved shall have a 6-in. base course of gravel, crushed stone, or other suitable materials. The material in place may be used if it is adequate.

Areas that support automobile traffic shall be designed for a wheel load of at least 4,000 lbs.

Surface treatment. The thickness of the asphalt course, the kind and size of aggregate, the type of proportioning of bituminous materials, and the mixing and placing of these materials shall be in accord with good highway practice for the expected loading.

The quality and thickness of concrete and the spacing and size of reinforcing steel shall be appropriate for the expected loading and in accord with sound engineering practice.

The minimum thickness for a gravel surface shall be 2 in.

If other surfacing materials are used, such as cinders, tanbark, and sawdust, the minimum thickness shall be 2 in.

Structures. All structures shall be designed according to appropriate NRCS standards and specifications or Engineering Handbook recommendations.

Sprays and artificial mulches. Sprays of asphalt, oil, plastic, manufactured mulches, and similar materials shall be installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Vegetative measures. Liming, fertilizing, seeding and sodding shall be according to the planned use and the local technical guide. If vegetation is not appropriate, other measures shall be used to prevent erosion.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Indiana NRCS FOTG – February 1982.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Water Quantity**

Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, infiltration and transpiration.

### **Water Quality**

1. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment, animal waste and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.
2. Effects of changes in surface and ground water caused by introduction of fertilizers for vegetated areas, and oils and chemicals associated with concrete and asphalt placement and other construction activities.
3. Effects of changes in surface water caused by the surfacing of confined animal feeding areas.

## **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans and specifications for heavy use area protection shall be in keeping with this standard

and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

Preparation of sites for construction shall be done in a manner that destroys as little desirable vegetation as feasible. Special efforts shall be made to protect and save trees of significant value.

In high human use areas, construction operations shall be carried out in a manner to minimize air and water pollution and hold such pollution within tolerable limits. Bare areas shall be vegetated as soon as practical after earthwork is completed. A minimum area shall be stripped of vegetation at any one time to provide an adequate work site. Disposal of debris from site preparation shall be done in a manner to cause minimum pollution to the environment.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Operation and maintenance requirements are not applicable for this practice.